

Bridge Connects To Land

• Pier 2 Reaches Missouri

Spring has been an especially exciting season for construction of the Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge.

Girders on Pier 2 connected with the Missouri riverbank in early May. Concrete work continues on the Missouri side and then the stay cables and precast deck panels will be installed.

There are currently three sets of stay cables remaining to be installed in each side of Pier 2.

At Pier 3, post-tensioning of the tower legs is completed. Post-tensioning is a process where steel strands are looped through the tower legs and then filled with grout. This forces the concrete in the towers to compress and makes it stronger. The deck and stay cable process is also



progressing.

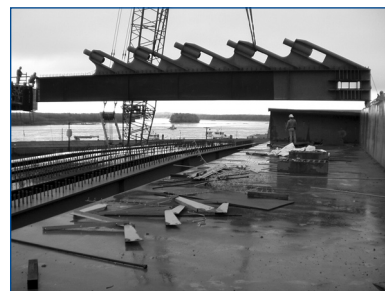
"We anticipate connecting Pier 2, near the Missouri side of the river and Pier 3 in the center of the river in August," said Senior Construction Inspector Rick Lamb.

The concrete pours on Pier 4 were also completed this month.

The Illinois approach spans' driving surface is also underway. Check out page 2 for

photos.

Pier 2 connected to the Missouri river bank in May.



Chamber Wraps Up Emerson Bridge Lighting Campaign

The Cape Girardeau Chamber of Commerce has found people willing to help light the Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge and Chamber President John Mehner says that's a relief.

"We offered sponsorships of one of 32 big lights on the bridge for \$2,500, or sponsorships of the 108 small lights on the bridge for \$250," Mehner said. "Light sponsors will be recognized on a plaque near the bridge."

The lights are completely sold, but you can still help the lighting fund. Prints of *Eastern Access* are still on sale for \$200.

All money will go toward the matching funds needed to add the aesthetic lighting to the bridge. The chamber and the city received enhancement funds to help fund aesthetic lighting on the bridge, but still need to raise around \$120,000 to complete the funding. Enhancement funds are federal funds and the U.S. government requires MoDOT to spend 10 percent of federal Surface Transportation Program funds for nontraditional transportation projects.

"The lights will be impressive once in place and anyone who wants can help make the Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge a spectacle to behold," said Mehner. "We want the community's help to light what will be the dominant feature in Cape's skyline."

For more information on the lighting, contact the Cape Girardeau Chamber of Commerce at (573) 335-3312.

An In Depth Look: MoDOT Employees Temporarily Assigned To Bridge Construction

The Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge construction is a major project for MoDOT. In addition to employees hired by the contractor, MoDOT also has employees assigned to work on the construction and inspect the work. Because the project is so enormous, the department has temporarily reassigned employees from other divisions to work on the bridge.

Here's a look at some of the civil engineers who have given their talents to construction and the experience they've gained.

go back to your regular job? Yes. I'll miss working here when I return to Sikeston to the design division. I'll be leaving construction at that time and will miss much of the hands-on inspection and being outside. I won't miss climbing the ladders in the heat of the summer though.

Kelly Green Job title:



Traffic
Studies
Engineer
**What
did you
do with
the
bridge**

project? Inspected materials, inspected concrete pours, inspected other activities on Piers 2, 3 and 4.

What has been your favorite part of working on the bridge? Standing on the top of Pier 2 and looking over Cape Girardeau. The construction of the caisson at Pier 3 was neat, too.

Will you miss working on the bridge when you go back to your regular job? Now, that I am back in my regular job, I already do miss it. The bridge is such a huge project that not many people get the opportunity to work on. It was a great learning experience for me.

**Jennifer
Painter
Job title:**
Senior
Con-
struc-
tion
Inspector



tor

What did you do before working on the bridge? Worked in the Sikeston project office as a senior construction inspector on various projects.

What's your job with the bridge project? I inspect materials and construction.

What has been your favorite part of working on the bridge? The new people to meet and work with.

Will you miss working on the bridge when you

Third Bridge TV Show In The Works

Viewers will get another chance to see construction close-up and hear how things are progressing on the Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge.

The third in a series of construction updates will air on WDKA 49 and Cape cable access channel 5 in July.

At press time, no air dates were yet available, however, check MoDOT's website (www.modot.org, click, your local MoDOT, select Cape Girardeau County)) for the latest listings or call us toll-free at 1-888-275-6636.

Grand Opening Planning Continues

The steering committee, chaired by Chamber President John Mehner, continues to meet monthly and plan for the much anticipated opening of the Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge.

"We want to give the community an opportunity to celebrate this important event for the city," said Mehner. "Business and civic tions already contact leaders organiza- have been in with us offering to lend their time and talents and we couldn't be happier."



So far, the committee is working on plans for a dedication ceremony, a pageant, several contests and community events.

"Much of what we will be able to do will depend on the weather," said Mehner, "however, we will commemorate the bridge opening in some way regardless of season."

Getting Ready In Illinois



Pouring concrete for the approach spans on the Illinois side of the Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge.



The Bridge *Beat* with Sachs Electric

Sachs Electric is the electrical subcontractor for the Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge construction and Project Manager Keith Robinson tells us there's lots to do.

"The Emerson Bridge has several types of lighting. There are lights inside the structure for people to inspect the towers. There

are aviation warning lights on top of the towers. The sides of the bridge have river navigational lighting. The bridge itself will have typical roadway lighting. And, of course, there's the aesthetic lighting," said Robinson.

The aesthetic lights will be placed along both edges of the bridge. Smaller lights will light the cables and larger lights will light the towers.

"Because that will be bright lighting, the river-boat captains will be able to switch the lights off," Robinson said.

The lights will stay off for about 20 minutes.

"Naturally, not everyone will have to turn the lights off, especially on a clear day," he said.

The aesthetic lights will also be unpluggable to make maintenance easier.

"Instead of doing the repairs on the edge of the bridge, workers can unplug it and take it to an easier and safer place to work," he said.

Sachs has begun work inside the towers and as the bridge deck goes up it's putting in conduit support brackets for the lighting.

Robinson expects the electrical work to really get busy by the end of July.

Deck Panels Speed Up Construction

The Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge driving surface is actually being constructed in Memphis—at least part of it.

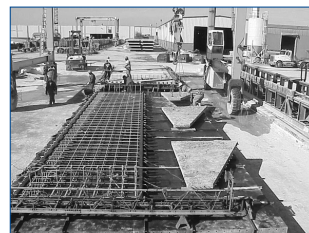
"The large deck panels for the bridge come from CPI in Memphis," said Senior Construction Inspector Rick Lamb. "The panels are poured there and later shipped to the bridge construction site on barges."

Lamb says because of their size, by barge is the best way to transport them to the site.

"It's a direct route up the river, so it is more efficient this way than trying to route a large number of oversized trucks up the interstate highway," he said.

It only takes a few days to get to the construction site on the river. Lamb says around 200 panels have been shipped from Memphis for construction.

"We have smaller deck panels for the Illinois approach spans coming



from Raider Precast in Iowa, and additional panels coming from Egyptian in Illinois," he said.

MoDOT has used precast deck panels for a number of years with good success. It is quicker, since there is less work to be done and much less expensive.

On the main span of

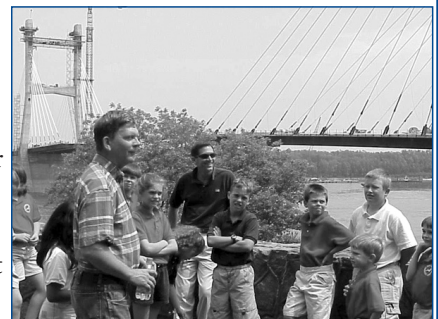
the Emerson Bridge, these panels also have ducts for post tensioning rods to give extra strength in the panels and the deck.

"Once all the panels are installed, we'll overlay them with three inches of a special concrete mixture, and then we'll pour the barrier curbs on top of that," Lamb said.

Emerson Bridge Fun Fact For Kids

MoDOT Area Engineer Stan Johnson visited with students from Deer Creek Academy in Cape Girardeau about the Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge.

Johnson discussed different types of bridges and talked about the Emerson Bridge construction. Students then took a field trip to see the bridge and ask questions.



The Beacon

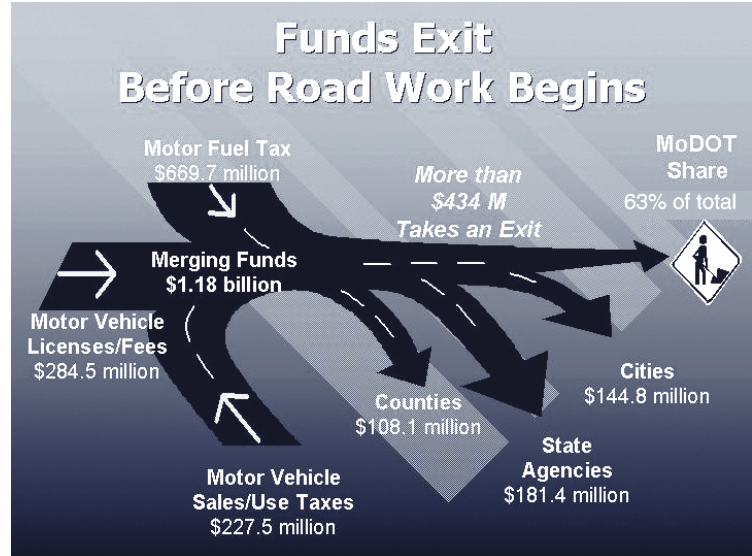
is published quarterly by the Missouri Department of Transportation's Southeast District. It is mailed to Southeast Missouri residents interested in the construction of the Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge to provide information on the project's progress, significant milestones and related news. Comments, questions and suggestions are welcome. Please send to:

The Beacon

Missouri Department of
Transportation
Southeast District
2675 North Main Street
P.O. Box 160
Sikeston, MO 63801
(573) 472-6632
1-888-ASK-MODOT

Funding Facts

The graphic below shows money collected for transportation and how much of that MoDOT receives to improve and maintain Missouri's roadways.



Inside:

- Construction Update
- Bridge Lighting Campaign
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2675 N. Main
P.O. Box 160
Sikeston, MO 63801
www.modot.org